since part of this region is covered with volcanic soils, it has excellent wines. 134 241

The northwestern part of Transdanubia is the most intensively farmed area in Hungary. Some parts of this area are sandy.

The meteorological conditions of the Carpathian Basin combined with a variety of soils offer rich and varied products to the inhabitants. The Great Plains have a typically continental climate. The yearly precipitation is 500-600 mm. With a yearly average temperature of only 10 centigrades (due to the frequent -30°C winter colds), the amount of sunshine reaching this area in the summer equals that of the French Riviera. There is a relatively large number of hours of sunshine (1,900-2,000 annually on the Great Plains) which gives to the crops greater resistance to parasites, increases their power of germination and facilitates storage and transportation. The climate of Transdanubia constitutes a transition between the continental climate of the lowlands and the more coastal climate of the West European countries. 132

The chief crop in Hungary is wheat, and cereals in general. Corn production equals that of wheat and is used primarily for fattening stock. 243

Good quality tobacco is being produced on some 8,000 acres of Hungarian soil, especially in sandy areas. [249]

243 Hungarian soil, especially in sandy areas. The production of rice was before 1945 only in an experimental stage. In the post-war period, the government's extensive irrigation program and favoring of rice has resulted in a now increasing rice yield coming from approximately 50,000 cadastral [249] acres. Sugar beets provide Hungary's sugar.

245 274 At present, vineyards cover 800,000 cadastral acres and produce world-famous wines. The yearly output of the wine industry is 3-4 million liters of wine with an average alcoholic content of 11-14.5 per cent. Hungarians are the sixth largest wine consumers in Europe, averaging 38 liters a year per person.

244 Vegetables are grown throughout the country, with certain regions specializing in particular crops. Nagykörös furnishes most of the cucumbers, Kalocsa and Szeged pepper and paprika, and Makó is the center of garlic and onion production. Tomatoes come from the regions of Budapest, Hatvan, Kecskemét, Nagykörös and Kaposvár. The yearly production of excellent (5.5 per cent sugar content) tomatoes amounts to approximately 7,000 FREIGHT CAR wagon-loads.

245 The long summer sunshine gives to Hungarian fruit an almost unsurpassed quality. The following chart shows the pre-war number of fruit